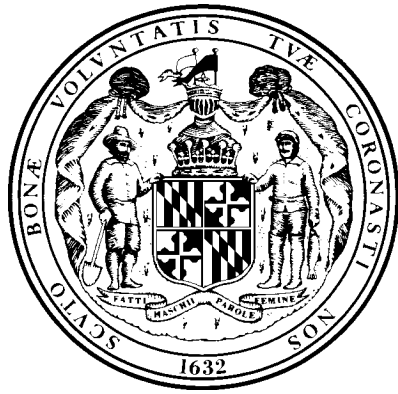


**Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele
100th Day Accomplishments**

April 25, 2003

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Veterans Affairs

- Preparing to open an additional wing at the Charlotte Hall Veterans Home that will add 126 beds to the facility.
- Succeeded in passing a key amendment to legislation that creates a task force charged with studying how retired military personnel contribute to the state's economy. The amended bill later passed both houses of the legislature.
- Launched an aggressive outreach program that will enable the department to better communicate with veterans from all across the state.



April 25, 2003

Dear Fellow Marylanders:

It's been a busy 100 days!

The Ehrlich-Steele team is already transforming the way Annapolis does business. We reduced the size of government, held the line on taxes, and made investments in programs that benefit the most vulnerable citizens. We brought a renewed focus to homeland security, making Maryland a much safer place in the process. We passed a charter schools bill after years of gridlock, and secured key federal approval for the long-overdue Inter-County Connector project in Montgomery County.

While our team in Annapolis has been working on these and other issues, our partners throughout state government have been bringing the winds of change to their own departments and agencies.

This booklet chronicles the significant milestones achieved by each state department during the early days of the Ehrlich-Steele Administration. As you can see, despite coping with snowstorms, Code Orange, the 2003 legislative session, and the state's fiscal situation, the Ehrlich-Steele Administration made progress on the issues that matter to every Marylander.

One hundred days is not enough time to transform 40 years of status quo government. Nonetheless, we are proud of these achievements, and look forward to contributing to this record of progress in the future. The best is yet to come!

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Michael S. Steele
Lieutenant Governor

Aging

- Increased the number of seniors receiving home or community-based housing through the Medicaid Waiver for Older Adults by 408 people, bringing the total to 2,214 Marylanders.
- Approved a significant expansion to Carroll Lutheran Village, a continuing care retirement community in Carroll County.
- Became the first state Aging department to develop and sponsor an on-line caregiver message board. This enables adults caring for elderly relatives or grandparents caring for children to share techniques, tips and strategies.
- Completed new long-term agreement between Mercedes Benz and the Port of Baltimore. The agreement strengthens Mercedes' commitment to the Port, establishes a solid foundation on which to build for the future, and provides stability for Maryland labor force employed at the Port.
- Unveiled the completion of the Interstate-95 Master Plan and directed the MDTA to begin project planning for the first of the Master Plan improvements in the congested Baltimore County part of the corridor. Goal is to have construction underway in 2006.
- Implemented new security measures for all Maryland transportation modes consistent with homeland security directives issued by the Department of Homeland Security.

Transportation

- Obtained the Bush Administration's support for expediting the environmental review process for the Inter-County Connector.
- Submitted Bi-County Transitway as priority project for reauthorization to provide new transit capacity between Bethesda and Silver Spring, with the option of continuing on to New Carrollton.
- Submitted Corridor Cities Transitway as priority project for reauthorization to provide needed additional transit capacity along the I-270 corridor.
- Submitted Baltimore Regional Transit Plan as priority project for reauthorization to provide east-west transit capacity in the Greater Baltimore area. Request includes planning funds for Red and Green Lines and construction funding for Red Line.
- Submitted Southern Maryland Transit Plan as priority project for reauthorization with goal of strengthening the popular commuter bus transit network between Southern Maryland and Washington, D.C.
- Introduced Bus Rapid Transit Proposal for consideration as part of all major transit initiatives now being studied in the state. BRT utilizes the latest in technology to combine the advantages and comfort of subway with the route flexibility of bus.
- Introduced new Maryland Driver's License. State of the art technology enhances security of the information contained on card. License and ID to be produced by new, customer friendly system designed to reduce wait times at MVA facilities.

Agriculture

- Announced more than \$20 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture grants for rural water, wastewater infrastructure projects, and conservation assistance plans throughout Maryland.
- Unveiled the Maryland Agricultural Showcase – a traveling exhibit and classroom to promote the state's agricultural heritage.
- Inducted the 25th and 26th farm families into the Maryland Agriculture Hall of Fame.
- Celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture by conducting an Open House that attracted several thousand Marylanders.

Budget and Management

- Proposed and enacted a balanced budget plan which:
 - Fully funds the education “Bridge to Excellence” program (\$148 million—\$206 million total increase in K-12 education aid).
 - Reduces the size of government. At least 30 of 54 state general-fund agencies reduced spending below prior year levels—by an average of 7%.
 - Eliminates over 3,000 vacant state positions.
 - Maintains a reserve fund balance of \$500 million.
- Provided modest but critical increases in priority programs that benefit vulnerable citizens:
 - Developmental disability services (\$11 million service expansion, \$14.6 million provider wage initiative).
 - Mental health community services (\$30 million funding increase).
 - Criminal justice (\$5.1 million public defender increase, \$1.8 million for Baltimore City violent crime prosecution and electronic information sharing).
 - Juvenile services (\$2 million).
 - Historically Black Colleges and Universities (\$5.5 million enhancement fund, \$3.1 million private donation incentives).
- Proposed a FY 2004 Capital Budget that provides \$986.2 million in investments in education, public safety, and the environment.
- Provided key support to legislation protecting health care benefits for Bethlehem Steel retirees.

Public Safety and Correctional Services

- Opened the first 256-cell of four expansion housing units for the Western Correctional Institute/North Branch Correctional Institute.
- Launched a front-end work release program in Baltimore City, through which offenders can serve their sentences while maintaining their jobs and livelihoods.
- Hiring 35 additional parole and probation agents.
- Helped launch the Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health and Recovery (TAMAR) Children’s Program to offer a residence and support services to pregnant inmates serving time for nonviolent offenses.
- Established a division for treatment services to focus on substance abuse, mental health, and the medical needs of the inmate population.
- Embarked on a trio of initiatives within the Division of Correction to reduce operational costs while increasing performance efficiencies.

Planning

- Launched a web-based assessment of state-owned property so that all agencies can identify surplus property.
- Developed inventory tracking software that will be used by all state agencies to correct past inventory shortage problems.
- Reorganized the agency to enhance department's technical assistance, review and service delivery capabilities.
- Purchased new aerial photography to enhance the state's homeland security efforts.
- Developing a new, user friendly Maryland Property View to assist citizens, businesses and local governments in accessing information.
- Begun review to assist in the promotion of residential, commercial and mixed-use development near and around transit stops.

Business and Economic Development

- Working in partnership with the City of Baltimore and the private sector, secured the 2007 Army/Navy Football Game for Ravens Stadium. The game will generate millions in direct and indirect economic input for the State of Maryland.
- Secured \$200,000 federal grant to market the National Road as part of the National Scenic Byways Program.
- Announced that Connex intends to locate its U. S. headquarters in Baltimore. Maryland beat out Massachusetts and Georgia for this prestigious facility.
- Three major company announcements are in the works. One will create up to 500 jobs in Hagerstown, the second up to 200 jobs in Howard County and the third up to 100 jobs also in Howard County. All three deals should be completed shortly.
- Medline announced plans to locate its distribution and assembly facility in Harford County. This will create 40 jobs in the short term, growing to 100 jobs created eventually.
- Educational Services agreed to move its headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Montgomery County, meaning 25 new jobs for the state.
- Worked with Sears to open a new call center in Howard County, creating 70 new jobs.
- Worked with production crews on the HBO program *The Wire* along with Disney feature film *Ladder 49*.
- Launched feasibility study to bring affordable high-speed Internet access to the Eastern Shore.

- Worked with Coca Cola to consolidate its two Maryland facilities into a new location in Anne Arundel County, preserving 400 jobs along with the potential to add jobs in the future.
- Provided more than \$5 million in grants and loans to existing Maryland companies and enterprises to expand or retain existing operations.

Natural Resources

- Announced new Chesapeake Bay Program Pollution Reduction Goal fulfilling commitment to the Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement.
- Received a \$350,000 EPA grant to implement new monitoring technologies for the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.
- Adopted new blue crab harvesting regulations for the start of the 2003 crabbing season that balances conservation efforts with attention to the economic health of commercial fishermen.
- Developed a Bay Grass Restoration Strategy for the Chesapeake Bay. To be unveiled later this year, DNR will implement large-scale bay grass plantings for the first time in Maryland.
- Awarded \$1.4 million for the restoration of six streams throughout the state.
- Developed an emergency response plan for every park in the state as part of homeland security efforts.
- Authorized an emergency dune repair program for Ocean City following a storm in February.
- Placed into service 4 new fire-fighting trucks in the most fire-active counties in each region of the state – Allegany, Cecil, Charles and Dorchester.
- Completed a dozen major land acquisitions to preserve park land, forests and undeveloped lands at a cost of more than \$8 million.
- Completed statewide surveys of forests, watershed areas, marinas and other recreational facilities to assess future needs.

Minority Affairs

- Developed a strategic framework for re-engineering OMA and driving reform for the MBE participation program.
- Launched a multi-phased approach for correcting the deficiencies raised in the November 2002 Performance Audit Report.
- The Task Force on Minority Business Enterprise Reform delivered its report to the Lt. Governor on April 10. This report is a vital input for improving business in the State of Maryland.
- Re-engineered the office's infrastructure to be more customer-focused and friendly while at the same time restructured staff and hired experienced business professionals.
- Partnered with the Lt. Governor to conduct a town-hall meeting for statewide procurement professionals and MBE liaisons concerning problems, solutions and best practices for the MBE program reform. Surveyed 300 participants for input.
- Working with team to develop statewide Disparity Study that is used as legal justification for the State's MBE participation program.
- Completed outreach/support efforts to approximately 1,500 minority business owners in various speaking forums, summits, phone calls, meetings, and seminars.

Education

- Gained federal approval for our plan to raise educational achievement in accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act.
- Administered the first round of reading and mathematics testing to more than 270,000 students under the new Maryland School Assessment test.
- Unveiled an exciting new initiative – Maryland's Alternative Road to Certification Options, or MARCO – to tackle the teacher shortage in Maryland.
- Launched a new online service to provide residents and students with information and professional library services 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week through Maryland *AskUsNow*.
- Launched a new initiative, *Take 15 for the Family ... Building a Lifetime of Learning*, encouraging families to turn daily activities into learning opportunities.

Environment

- Worked with the state's congressional delegation to obtain \$8.8 million in special appropriations for various wastewater treatment projects and infrastructure across the state.
- Joined with federal EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to announce a new federal initiative that will encourage redevelopment of these abandoned urban sites.
- Worked with officials in neighboring states and the EPA regional administrator and agreed on stringent new nutrient reduction goals for the Chesapeake Bay.
- The Governor appointed former Senator Martin Madden, a respected environmentalist, to the Chesapeake Bay Critical Areas Commission.

Maryland State Police

- Reorganized the state police to put more troopers in direct law enforcement roles, and initiate its emergence as the state's law enforcement leader in homeland security.
- Added 30 troopers to the new Homeland Security and Intelligence Bureau, and placed more than 60 troopers under the control of barracks commanders across the state.
- Assumed operation of the Maryland Police Corps. Training at the Police Corps will be redirected to provide more focus on homeland defense and statewide policing issues.
- Launched a toll-free number homeland security number – 1-800-492-TIPS – for citizens to call with information about suspicious activity.

Maryland Military Department

- Provided over 500 citizen soldiers and 220 pieces of equipment to fight the Presidents' Day snowstorm.
- Stationed more than 2,000 citizen-soldiers and airman at 24 locations around the world to fight the war against terrorism.
- The Governor directed Maryland Emergency Management Agency to move forward with 24/7 operations by filling vacant positions. These additional personnel will enhance the state's preparedness.
- The Governor held an emergency management workshop with his cabinet to review policy issues on terrorist acts and natural disasters between the Governor's staff and MEMA.
- The Governor authorized the increase of Maryland's Terrorist Threat Advisory System from significant (yellow) to high (orange) after consulting with his homeland security team and federal authorities.

General Services

- Secured all state owned facilities as terrorist threat levels were raised while at the same time protecting state employees and visitors to state owned facilities.
- Reorganized the DGS Police Force by giving direct reporting access to the Secretary.
- Reduced its vehicle fleet by almost 10 percent in the first 100 days. The vehicles were auctioned off on April 23rd.
- Saved \$50,000 through reorganization of IT office.
- Worked with Veterans Affairs to open the new addition to the Charlotte Hall Senior Activities Center. The addition has been sitting idle for the past two years.
- Working with Department of Planning to develop a real property inventory list and tracking system for all state-owned property.
- Launched a department-wide reorganization plan to make DGS more efficient.
- Initiated the first internal inventory of DGS since June 2000.

Health and Mental Hygiene

- Applied for and received \$115 million in unspent federal funds under the federal State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Maryland was one of only a handful of states selected by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Initiated Phase I of the Maryland Smallpox Vaccination Program.
- Received a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to assist in planning a Medicaid program for the working disabled.
- Implemented a "money follows the individual" program enabling Medicaid beneficiaries receiving services in a nursing home to receive services at home instead.
- Obtained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) waiver targeting serves to adults who might otherwise require a nursing facility or hospital level of care.
- Helped launch the Trauma, Addiction, Mental Health and Recovery (TAMAR) Children's Program to offer a residence and support services to pregnant inmates serving time for nonviolent offenses.

Labor, Licensing and Regulation

- Expanded the ability to file web-based claims for unemployment insurance by allowing wage claims and weekly-continued claim certifications to be filed via the Internet.
- Partnered with other states to devise a web-based system to meet the needs of job seekers, employers and employment training staff.
- Initiated partnerships with companies to acknowledge quality safety and health programs and to foster voluntary compliance with occupational safety and health standards. Wagman Construction at the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and Frito-Lay in Aberdeen are just two examples.
- Assisted employers and employees at Black and Decker and Bethlehem Steel by seeking National Emergency Grants. These programs are designed to provide immediate access to state-provided reemployment services.
- Working with the Maryland Insurance Administration, DLLR addressed the health needs of Bethlehem Steel retirees aged 55-64 by submitting a National Emergency Grant to obtain Tax Credit Advance Payments.
- Obtained an AmeriCorps Planning Grant to place 30 AmeriCorps volunteers with faith-based organizations interested in providing employment services.
- Initiated a series of programs with the Department of Public Safety to provide job-training programs for ex-offenders transitioning back into the workforce.

- Jointly planned with the Maryland State Department of Education the first statewide meeting to facilitate the smooth transition of children from the department's institutional educational programs into the local public school systems.
- Negotiated a plan with Johns Hopkins Hospital to use the new Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center as a training site for medical residents.

Housing and Community Development

- Governor's Executive Order established Statewide Commission on Housing.
- Announced 1st Annual Conference on Affordable Housing to be conducted on October 30, 2003.
- Unveiled the "More House 4 Less" campaign that offers lower interest rates and raises purchase price limits for single-family homes.
- Provided \$1.2 million for the reopening of the Belvedere Square retail market in Baltimore.
- Participated in the reopening of the Carroll Theater on Main Street in Westminster.
- Assisted in the expansion of the Banneker-Douglas African American Museum in Baltimore. Groundbreaking took place on February 4, 2003.

Human Resources

- Helped pass four pieces of legislation making Maryland's child support enforcement state plan compliant with federal guidelines. Without these measures, Maryland may not have been reimbursed for \$295 million in child care costs.
- Partnered with the national faith-based organization Bread for the World Institute, Maryland Food Bank, and RESI Research and Consulting to apply for a \$720,000 federal Food Stamp outreach grant.
- Expanded the availability of child care to an additional 370 children by awarding nine contracts to child care operators in Baltimore City and Charles, Carroll, Garrett, Dorchester, and Montgomery counties.
- Partnered with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to propose a major new policy initiative that will increase access to long-term care for Maryland's seniors.
- Received a federal grant to evaluate and test a model approach to working with low-income, noncustodial parents with child support responsibilities.

Juvenile Justice

- Announced that as of July 1, 2003, the agency will be named the Department of Juvenile Services, in keeping with the Governor's commitment to reforming how services are provided to our youth.
- Appointed the Managing Director of the new Baltimore City Juvenile Justice Center.
- Secured the Annie E. Casey Foundation's participation in conducting an independent agency-wide assessment and analysis of department's programs, systems, and outcomes.
- Began a collaborative effort with other state agencies including Human Resources; Education; Health and Mental Hygiene; and Children, Youth and Families. One initial effort was the department's invitation to those agencies to participate in the planning of the future of Charles H. Hickey, Jr. School.
- Established an executive level task force to examine and develop proposals for enhancing services for girls in the care of the department.
- Renewed its relationship with the Office of Minority Affairs to ensure full participation for minority and women business owners in the department's bid process.
- Participated in the planning of statewide conference, set for May 15, 2003, on Preventing Recidivism In Youth Offenders.
- Established a new departmental unit for Research and Program Planning to oversee the collection, analysis, and publication of data in order to track the agency's progress and measure results.